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A TRIP ACROSS THE PLAINS,

AND

LIFE IN CALIFORNIA;

EMBRACING

A DESCRIPTION OF THE

OVERLAND ROUTE;

Its Natural Curiosities,

RIVERS, LAKES, SPRINGS, MOUNTAINS, INDIAN TRIBES, &c. &c.;

THE GOLD MINES OF CALIFORNIA:

Its Climate, Soil, Productions, Animals, &c.,

WITH SKETCHES

Of Indian, Mexican and Californian Character:

To which is Added,

A GUIDE OF THE ROUTE

FROM THE MISSOURI RIVER TO THE PACIFIC OCEAN.

BY GEO. KELLER,

PHYSICIAN TO THE WAYNE COUNTY COMPANY.

☞For "Contents," see last pages of volume.☜

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WHITE'S PRESS—MASSILLON, 1851.

Names and Residence

OF EACH MEMBER OF THE

WAYNE COUNTY COMPANY.

(TAKEN ON BOARD THE STEAMBOAT "CONSIGNEE.")

Luther M. Dennison, *Wooster*,
*Daniel C. Loyd, do. *Ohio.*
Frederick Kouk, do.
William Duck, *Dalton, O.*
Henry Duch, do.
John Morrow, do.
Cyrus Youcum, Plain t'p. Wa'ne co. Ohio.
Benj. Eason, do.
David Soliday, do.
Henry Soliday, do.
*Alexander Eason, do.
Joshua Eberhart, do.
Eli Jones, do.
Wm. Allenbaugh, do.
John Kimmell, Canaan, do.
Lewis Barritt, do. do.
Baltzer Houck, do. do.
Henry Mowry, E. Union, do.
Nathaniel Ames, do. do.
John Keffer, Wooster, do. do.
David Bower, Chester do. do.
G. R. M'Intire, Franklin do. do.
B. Mutersbaugh, Plain do. do.
H. Drabenstadt, Green do. do.
Sam'l. Hanson, Wooster do. do.
Henry Ammerman, do. do.
Jared Campbell, do. do.
Joseph Jackson, do. do.
*Lewis Gibson, do. do.
Wesley P. Yordy, do. do.
J. Mendenhall, Lakeport, Ia.
†John Huffstodt, Wooster, O.
†Thos. Smith, do. do.
†Charles Miller, do. do.
†Matthew M'Clure, do. do.
†Jonathan M'Clure, do. do.
†A. Thornton, Milton, W'yne co.
†James Jackson, do. do.
*David Peffer, Wooster, Ohio.
*John Mahaffie, do. do.
John France, do. do.
George Fleck, do. do.
Jesse Weirick, Dalton, Wayne
Alex. Clark, do. co. O.
Samuel Thomas, do. do.
Franklin Thomas, do. do.
*John Bell, do. do.
Chas. N. Lamison, do. do.
Isaac Bailey, do. do.
James Elder, do. do.
Henry Wertz, do. do.
Franklin Myer, do. do.
Mark Elder, do. do.
‡Joseph Sturgiss, do. do.
Jacob Updegraff, do. do.
Israel Homan, do. do.
Martin Hoover, do. do.
Daniel Hoover, do. do.
Joseph Hoover, do. do.
Thomas Marshall, do. do.
Edward Briggs, do. do.
Levi Scott, do. do.
John Keller, do. do.
Joseph Harper, do. do.
Elijah M'Dowell, do. do.
John Cully, do. do.
Peter Cully, do. do.

Henry Oberlin, Dalton, Wayne co. O.
Samuel M'Clelland, do. do. do.
W. F. E. Clark, do. do.
Boyd Clark, do. do.
Wm. H. Smith, do. do.
David Gearhart, do. do.
Dr. Geo. Keller, do. do.
Benj. Wilcox, do. do.
Jas. M. Vaughn, Wooster t'p, O.
John Pearson, Dalton, W'ne co.
*Thos. M'Clelland, Sugar cr. t.
Thos. Latimer do. W'ne co. O.
†Christian Fuek, do. do.
Andrew Murray, Dalton, Ohio.
R. R. Gailey, do. do.
J. Gailey, do. do.
S. Coe, Baughman tp. W. co. O.
Isaiah Bates, Dalton, do. do.
Jos. Weirick, Wooster tp.
†Dr. D. Weaver, do. vil'ge.
†Quimby Jones, do tp.
†Joseph R. Jones, do. do.
Peter Garlock, Edinburgh do.
Samuel Motter, do. do.
James Brown, do. do.
Edwin E. Gorgas do. do.
John Elder, do. do.
John Reasor, do. do.
James Atkinson, do. do.
R. K. Deverny, do. do.
†Jacob Stiver, Wayne tp. do.
†Jacob Paulis, do. do.
†Nicholas Paulis, do. do.
†Benj. Lehman, do. do.
Geo. Sonedecker, do. do.
A. Sonedecker, do. do.
Philip Proutman, do. do.
William Yost, do. do.
Jacob Oswald, do. do.
Simon Ihrig, do. do.
George Wolf, do. do.
Jesse Beighley, Milton tp. do.
*David Kimberlin, Green do do.
Mrs. D. Kimberlin, do. do.
John Long, do. do.
Hugh M'Davitt, do. do.
James Hoy, S'rcreek tp. do.

Wm. M'Connell, Massillon, O.
Samuel Marsh, do. do.
Gabriel Messersmith, C'l Dover O.
David Gochenour, E. Union, do.
E. H. Webb, Salem, Ohio.
S. R. Middleton, do. do.
David Karnes, Canaan tp. W'yne
Albert Hosington, do. co. O.
John Robinson, do. do.
Martin Mathis, do. do.
Joseph Karnes, do. do.
Abram Smith, do. do.
Philip Swartz, do. do.
Edwin H. Miles, Guilford, Medina co. O.
John Coble, Lake tp. Ashland co. O.
Elijah Runyan, do. do.
Wm. Doolittle, do. do.
John Stover, do. do.
Simon Stewart, do. do.
Mich'l Stewart, do. do.
James Stewart, Washington tp. Holmes co. O.
J. W. Everstine, Loudonville, O.
Cornelius Dill, do. do.
Peter Lumbert, do do.
J. Miller. do. do.
Lemuel Miller, do. do.
Jacob Likes, do. do.
Abram Likes, do. do.
Jacob Emeric, do. do.
Thos. Peterson, Morrow tp. Holmes co. O.
Stutley Whitford, Wayne co. O.
Sam'l. Charlton, Ashland co. O.
John Springer, do. do.
Wm. Rice, Medina co. O.
George Miller, Ashland co. O.
Philip Wolf, Wayne co. do.
†David Rhodes, Stark co. do.
†John Miller, do. do.
†John Wagoner, Summit co. do
†Jos. Callback, do. do.
†Peter Marsh, do. do.
†John Alban, Canal Fulton, O.
†A. Wolfbarger, do. do.

†Franklin Babb, Summit co. do.
*Wm. H. Paramor, Mansfield do
Geo. L. Jacobs, do. do.
Jacob Miller, do. do.
Samuel Dillon, do. do.
Daniel Dice, do. do.
Jas. M'Quade, jr. do. do.
Thos. Paramour, do. do.
Thomas Barnd, do. do.
†D. L. Harris, Summit co. O.
†P. W. Reader, Wayne co. do.
†Samuel Stover, Sum'it co. do.
†Adam Ruff, Fulton, do.
†Jacob Weysogle, do. do.
†Thomas Thorpe, do. do.
Frank Lauderdale, Holmes, do.
Geo. Lauderdale, do. co. do.
Thos. Gorsuch, Wayne co. do.
L. Whitside, do. do.
†Geo. Rudy, Greenville, do.
†S. Rudy, do. do.
†Sam'l. Clendenney, do. do.
John Leish, Haysville, Ashland co. O.
A. Shroder, New Lisbon, O.
Charles Nininger, do.
*Wm. M'Curdy, Canton, do.
*L. Barral, do. do.
J. Dunbar, do. do.
Geo. Rhedben, do. do.
Jeremiah Gilford, do. do.
Geo. J. Bettinger, do. do.
Wm. Lessig, Dalton, W'e c. do.
D. Fletcher, do. do.
*M. Barclay, do. do.
J. Fletcher, do. do.
*S. D. Kauffman, Canton, O.
*E. M. Meffert, do. do.
*Henry Kauffman, do. do.
*George Stuck, do. do.
N M D M'Millen, Mansfield, O.
John Dennison, do. do.
Wm. R. Hendricks, do. do.
S'l. Allenbaugh, Plain tp. W'ne co. O.
†J. P. Murphy, Feeeport, Armstrong co. Pa.
†Geo. Brown, do. do.
†R. M. Porter, do. do.
†Robert Cooper, do. do.
†S. L. Combs, Kittaning, do.
†J. Bradley, Florence, do.
†J. S. Lamb, Burgettstown, do.
†R. B. Murser, Florence, do.
†S. Hamlin, Harman's creek, do
†R. Biddle, Burgettstown, do.
†R. Kennedy, do. do.
†A. Wilson, do. do.
†T. F. Fowle, Armstrong co. do
†Jacob Milliron, do. do.
†Wm. Guthrie, do. do.
†S. B. Fowle, do. do.
†H. Miller, do. do.
†C. F. Fowle, do. do.
†B. Rodgers, do. do.
†Thos. Farrow, Pittsburgh, do.
†John Gumbert, do. do.
†Wm. Henry, do. do.
†Henry Gumbert, do. do.
†Geo. Gumbert, do. do.
†B. Rook, do. do.
†Sam'l. Fleming, do. do.
†Wm. Smith, do. do.
†Robert Gregg, do. do.
†Robert Orton, do. do.
†Hector Orton, do. do.
†Frank Robinson, do. do.
†Wm. Griffith, do. do.
†Josiah Boucher, Ligonier, do.
†Isaac F. Boucher, do. do.
†David Boucher, do. do.
†John George, do. do.
Geo. Aurentz, Blairsville, do.
Peter Uurentz, do. do.
Sam'l. C. Moorhead, do. do.
Joseph Aurentz, Pittsburg, do.
†Mic'l. Lipe, Somerset co. do.
†Peter Lipe, do. do.
†S. Naugle, Laughlintown, do.
†Jesse Griffiith, Somerset co. do
†David Griffiith, do. do.
†Christian Stauff, do. do.
†Geo. Couster, Stoystown, do.
†Jon. Smith, do. do.

Samuel Shire, Holmes co. O.
George Lee, do. do.
Reuben Spangler, do. do.
John Kinnard, Wooster, do.
Slemon Lisle, Holmes co. O.
P. C. Chesrown, do. do.
J. Marvin, do. do.
M. Troyer, do. do.
Isaac Moon, do. do.
R. F. Cahill, Findlay, do.
John M'Clelland, Dalton, Ohio, joined the company at St. Joseph.

* Dead.
† Went in another Company from St. Joseph.
‡ Left sick at St. Laramie, from thence returned to the States.

A TRIP ACROSS THE PLAINS,

And Life in California, &c.

CHAPTER I.

"Returned Californian"—"making a start for the Diggings." Big Blue. Little Blue, and Platte Valley.

During the early part of the year 1850, Mr. M. L. Dennison, a "returned Californian," visited our place, (Dalton, Wayne county, Ohio,) and gave such a glowing description of the "El Dorado," that considerable numbers from this and adjoining counties, began at once to make preparations, in order to reach the "Diggins" by the "Overland Route."

As Mr. Dennison was about returning to California, we concluded to place ourselves under his guidance, supposing, of course, that he was well acquainted with the route, and necessary outfit. Getting together our wagons, harness, clothing, &c., we took passage on board the Steamer "Consignee," bound for St. Joseph, Mo., designing to leave the frontier at that point. We arrived at this place March 31st. Though raining violently, we at once began getting our wagons and buggies ashore, and selecting a camping place. We spent the ensuing week in buying stock, provisions, cooking utensils, and getting all things ready, before starting out, on a long, tedious, and, to a certain extent, dangerous journey. Horses were worth from fifty to one hundred dollars, and mules from seventy-five to one hundred and fifty.

The outfit among the messes, generally, was four mules or horses, and one wagon, to every four men. By the advice of our guide we took but fifty pounds of flour, and for-

ty of hard bread, to each man; an amount we found wholly insufficient, as partial starvation, during the latter part of the route, satisfactorily demonstrated. Our other articles of provision were in about the same proportion.

On the 7th, 8th and 9th of April, the different messes crossed the Missouri river, and encamped near the bluff, six miles from St. Joseph's.

We found plenty of wood and good water at this point. A variety of the paroquet abounds in this part of the Indian territory. Mr. Mendenhall ascended a tree at this place, in pursuit of a squirrel, and, in endeavoring to capture it, inflicted a wonnd near his knee with a hatchet, which prevented him from travelling, "on foot," for a distance of one thousand miles.

On the evening of the 9th Mr. R. F. Cahill, of Findlay, Ohio, arrived at our camp, and engaged Messrs. Hoovers, of Dalton, to "take him through" to the "diggins."

Next morning, about 7 o'clock, we broke up our camp, and after driving a few minutes, found ourselves on the almost boundless prairie. The scenery on these vast natural fields, creates, for a short time, an exhilirating effect on the mind of the traveller; but the sameness of the scene soon becomes monotonous.

This evening we encamped about two miles west of the "Indian Agency." As grass had not yet begun growing on the prairie, we were compelled to carry food for the mules and horses. Several of our messes bought corn at this place, paying one dollar per bushel.

We travelled this day about 27 miles. As many of the mules had never been harnessed before, of course some trouble might be expected in getting them to work well,—but I believe we had no "bawks," or runaways, during the day.

On Sunday afternoon (April 14th) we crossed the Big Blue, distant from St. Joseph about 125 miles. This stream is about 120 feet wide, and at this time about three feet deep. We forded it without any difficulty. Later in the season, during the heavy rains, this stream is swollen very much, and may detain a company several days, either in waiting for it "to fall," or in ferrying it. The weather, during the afternoon, was warm and pleasant; but the days preceding it, had been unusually cold, snowing fre-

quently, with a cold wind from the north. In this distance we had no wood, except in the vicinity of streams. Next evening about sunset, we crossed Little Blue, and travelled near it the two successive days; the weather, during this time, cold and rainy.

Friday evening (19th) we struck the valley of Platte, or Nebraska river, and encamped near some pools of stagnant water, about three miles from the river. Not having any fuel here but prairie grass, and it wet by the rains, we concluded to dispense with the ceremony of getting supper, and therefore went to bed minus this meal.

CHAPTER II.

Fort Kearney—"Doby Houses,"—Buffalo, Deer, &c.,—Ford of South Platte—Encampment of Sioux—Fine Arts—Squaws.

Next morning about sunrise, we started forward, intending to breakfast at Fort Kearney, distant about ten miles. Reaching this place about ten o'clock, we concluded to stop for an hour or two, during which time some breakfast was "got up," and flour purchased to feed the stock, many of them being nearly worn out by hard driving, and an insufficient amount of food. Spring being unusually late, we, as yet, found no grass, and it became necessary to economize the grain we had with us as much as possible.

This military establishment is about 300 miles from St. Joseph, and about two miles from Platte river. It is designed to afford supplies to emigrants, and protect them from attacks of the different Indian tribes. This fort is situated in the Pawnee country. During the summer of 1849, they were in the habit of visiting emigrants, while passing through their country. As these were suffering from cholera, the disease was communicated to them, destroying great numbers. This so frightened them, that they kept at a respectful distance during the next season.

Fort Kearney is built, principally, of "adobes," (unburnt brick,) usually called "doby" houses, *for short*. The great scarcity of timber, renders an expedient of this kind necessary. About two o'clock, P. M., we left the fort, and travelling about eight miles, encamped near a pool of stagnant water, about two and a half miles from the river.

We used the dried stalks of the Lobelia Inflata, as fuel at this place. There is scarcely any timber, growing on or near the banks of the Platte, except a few cotton and willow trees, and very often none even of these. The breadth of the river valley, varies from three to six or 8 miles. From this point to the ford of the South Fork of Platte, a distance of 160 miles, we travelled up the river valley, suffering considerably from cold and wet weather, having no fuel but dry prairie grass, and the "Bois de Vache," or Buffalo chips, (the excrement of the Buffalo, dried by years of exposure to the sun.) These *chips* make a very good fire, when you have nothing *better*. While travelling over this part of the route, we passed hundreds of herds of this animal. The flesh of the calves and cows is very good, but that of the *elderly males* is rather *tough*.—There are also plenty of Antelopes, Bears, Wolves, Hares, Prairie Dogs, (a small animal resembling the Squirrel,) Wild Geese & Ducks, Snipes and Prairie Chickens. Several species of good Fishes are frequently found in the streams.

The rattle-snake, prairie dog and burrowing owl, are frequently found living together, amicably, in the same burrow. Natural history does not, probably, afford an example of animals so dissimilar in form and habits, occupying the same *berth*.

We reached the ford of South Platte on the 26th of April, the weather during the whole day very cold and snowing violently. The river at this point is about one half mile in width, but very shallow, the greatest depth not being more than two feet. Later in the season, during the June rains, it is much deeper. The bed of this stream is very sandy, so much so, that if a wagon "sticks" for a few minutes, it becomes a difficult matter to get it out from the accumulations of sand.

On arriving at the opposite shore, a very inhospitable scene presented itself—large flakes of snow flying across the barren plain and bluffs, and not a vestige of any thing resembling fuel, except the Buffalo chips, which were so wetted by the melting snow as not to be in very good *burning* ORDER. A gallon or two of "cognac," when applied *internally*, had the effect of lulling the sensibilities of a number of the company, and bringing on a state of *happy*

forgetfulness. But those who drank none felt much better next morning.

This example would go far, towards establishing the position, that water is calculated to answer in all kinds of weather.

We had been compelled to leave a number of mules and horses before this time, on account of scarcity of grass and grain, and several more were added to the number, by the fatigue and exposure endured in crossing this stream.

Next day we travelled to Cash Hollow, on the North Fork of Platte, distant 14 miles. There are several long, steep hills to descend in this distance. Before reaching the Hollow we met a train of wagons, belonging to the American Fur Company, loaded with furs and skins. On arriving at this camping place, we found plenty of wood and water; the weather was also warm and pleasant.

Between the States and this point, the road is generally very good, equal to any road of the same length in the "States."

Not supposing we would be troubled by the Indians, a number of guns were broken and thrown away at this place, our object being to lighten the loads as much as possible. After leaving the Hollow we struck the bank of North Platte, a stream entirely different from the South Fork, and the main Platte, after the junction of the two forks. The latter are wide and shallow, while the former is narrow and of considerable depth. About ten miles travel brought us to an encampment of Sioux Indians. In these ten miles we had considerable heavy sand road.

These Indians received us very kindly, and exhibited their certificates of "moral character," and friendship towards emigrants. We, in turn, gave them some small presents. This tribe have at present about fifteen hundred lodges, each one large enough to contain five persons with their baggage. These lodges are got up in the following manner. About eight poles, about fifteen or twenty feet long, are arranged in the form of a cone; one extremity of the poles being placed around the circumference of the circle, while the other extremity forms the apex of the cone. A number of Buffalo robes dressed on both sides are sewed together, and fitted accurately to this frame work. An opening is left at the top to give exit to the smoke. This is

furnished with a valve, which may be made to cover the *chimney* during rain or snow. Internally the following arrangement is observed: the fire is placed in the centre, and the baggage around the circumference of the circle, while the family occupy the intermediate space.

These Indians, as well as the tribes generally east of the Rocky mountains, are considerably skilled in the *fine* arts, making very beautiful moccasins and other articles of wearing apparel. The Buffalo robe is tanned very nicely, being white, and almost as soft as buff cassimere.—Their arms are spears and bows and arrows. A few have rifles. The Sioux and Pawnees are almost constantly at war with each other. We noticed at this encampment, a *French gentleman*, who informed us that he had been with the tribe thirty-two years.

Novelists frequently tell us of beautiful Indian maidens, but among the different tribes on the northern route to California, a pretty squaw is a *rara avis*—so rare, indeed, that I have never seen a single specimen.

They are "heavy set," and not tall enough, with broad faces and prominent cheek bones. They also, as a general thing, use too much paint, which differs too much from *carmine* to aid any in improving their complexion. They are, generally, very faithful wives, whether their husbands be Indians or whites. Nearly all the hunters and trappers in the Indian country, have one or two wives, selected from the nearest tribe. The squaws do all the "hard work," while their "lords" are busied in taking care of themselves, doing a little hunting, fishing, or fighting, when it suits their convenience.

CHAPTER III.

Indian mode of travelling—Court House or Church—Chimney Rock—Scott's Bluffs—Blacksmith Shop and Horse Creek.

After leaving these Indians, we traveled about nine miles and encamped. Heavy sand road. During the next day we met considerable numbers of Sioux travelling toward some other encampment. Each family has one or more of a very indifferent kind of pony, which from ill usage do not make a very *flashy* appearance.

When about to travel, the husband takes his arms, mounts his pony, and *goes ahead*, leaving his squaw to pack up the baggage and bring up the rear. This is effected in the following manner. The lodge poles, are lashed to the saddle of a pony by one end, while the other drags on the ground. Pieces are placed across these ends of the poles, and upon them the baggage is placed. Very often two or three papooses are *piled up* on the top of the load.

If it be the only pony, it is, when all things are ready, mounted by the squaw and the *cavalcade* sets forward.—If there be a spare pony, she rides it and leads the one carrying the baggage. A variety of large dogs kept by these tribes, are also compelled to assist in these migrations. Smaller poles are attached to them, and on these, is placed, what is considered by the squaws, a just proportion of the baggage. This is a duty, which the dogs dislike very much, but the final arguments of their mistresses—kicks and cuffs—induce them to submit, after they get fairly started, these *arguments* with an occasional tzoo, tzoo, wahkashne ceit cha (get on, get on, you devilish beasts) keep them *moving*. If they be not watched, two or three of them manage to get up a fight, is soon converted into a general row, during which they get their loads off, which is quite an annoyance to the squaws, who must stop and repack them, of course *stopping the fight first*. These dogs are also highly valued as an article of food. *Dog* is considered far ahead of all *meats*, both by Indians and trappers.—Panthers is thought to be next best, while the meats we esteem most highly, are pretty far down in the list.

About forty-five miles further travelling, our heavy sand road brought us to the "Church" or "Court House" Rock. This natural curiosity is several miles to the left of the road. It is composed of a whitish, soft rock, and, as its name imports, resembles very much, a large church or court house. Chimney Rock, seen distinctly from the "church," though twelve miles off, is also a very striking example of some of Nature's freaks. The lower part of this rock is shaped like a cone. The top is surmounted by a "chimney" seventy-five feet high, of almost equal diameter, through its entire length.

Height of the whole rock, two hundred and fifty feet.—

This, with all the other peculiar rocks and bluffs of this part of the country, is composed of rock, similar to that of the "court house or church."

It is nearly as soft as magnesian lime stone; though not so white. Five miles farther there are a number of irregular elevations, called Scott's Bluffs. They are about five hundred feet high. When the atmosphere is clear the Rocky mountains may be seen from the summit of these bluffs. When I made the ascent the air was too hazy to get a view of these distant mountains. The main chain is about three hundred miles from the "Bluffs."

The road leaves the immediate valley of Platte river, and passes between two of these bluffs. From this to the "Blacksmith Shop," a distance of twenty miles, there is no water or wood, and very little grass. Heavy sand road part of this distance.

At the "Shop" we found plenty of red cedar timber and good water. Our corn was now nearly exhausted. and being not yet replaced by grass, we were compelled to leave stock, almost daily.

Thursday may 2nd. left the "shop," and after travelling 12 miles crossed Horse creek. about thirty feet wide and two feet deep. In the afternoon travelled thirteen miles, and encamped on the same stream, Weather cold and windy. Next day about 10 o'clock A. M. arrived at Roubidous'. There is a blacksmith shop and stock market here. Exorbitant prices were demanded for mules or horses. As an illustration, Mr. D. Hoover, of Dalton, gave a pretty good horse and seventy-five dollars, for a rather indifferent mule. After leaving this place we travelled a few hours and encamped within four miles of Ft Laramie. We had here plenty of good wood and water, and a little grass.

CHAPTER IV.

Fort Laramie.- Warm Springs—La Bout River—Magnesian Limestone—An early start—Fishing in Deer creek—Ferry of North Platte—Mineral Lakes.

Next morning (Saturday May 4th) we arrived at the fort. Finding we were going to be short of provisions, before getting through, we concluded to supply ourselves

here, with a sufficient amount, but being informed by the commanding officer, that this would be unnecessary, as we could get supplies at Ft. Hall, we concluded to defer the matter until arriving there. The reader will be fully apprized of the result of this determination, before we get through. Some messes got flour and hard bread, but not enough to "last through."

Mr. Joseph Sturgis of Dalton, had been suffering for days, from an attack of acute rheumatism, and as his case was not likely to be much improved, by cold weather, and the jostling of the wagon passing over the cobble-stones in the road, I advised him to remain here, until he should get well. This advice he accepted, and arrangements were made before we left for his reception at the Fort.

In a few weeks he returned to the States. Several soldiers were suffering from scurvy, brought on by the want of fresh vegetables. They were waiting for the wild onion to grow, the use of which, would soon effect a cure.

After leaving this fort we travelled twelve miles and encamped at the Warm Springs. The temperature of these springs is 66° Fahr. There are two roads leading from the springs, the left hand going by "Hebrew Springs," the right nearer the river (North Platte.) We took the latter in order to avoid crossing the "Black Hills," which in many places are very steep and the road full of cobble-stones. Next day we travelled about twenty-five miles, over a very hilly, and tortuous road, and encamped on a creek about twenty feet wide, and two feet deep. Good wood and water, and some grass here. Next day (Monday may 6th) we reached the La Bonte river, distance thirty-five miles. In the first fifteen miles we struck Platte River twice, in the remaining we had neither wood nor water. It snowed the greater part of this day, and the wind from the snow-capped mountains in the vicinity, was *rather fresh* to be comfortable.

The La Bonte is thirty feet wide and one and a half feet deep, with a rapid current. This stream is so called, from a hunter and trapper of the same name, whose companions were killed, and his wife Yute-chil-co-the (the reed that bends), carried away captive by the Arapahoes. This happened at the forks of the stream, while La Bonte was absent, on a trapping tour. His companions were also

trapping, and coming to the forks first were to await his arrival. He never recovered the "bending reed." The next morning was very cold, the thermometer at 5 o'c. A. M. standing at 28 deg. Fahr. Five miles from the La Bonte we crossed a branch of the same stream. In the vicinity of this branch there are large masses of magnesian limestone, and a peculiar earth of a deep red color. In the same locality, there is a natural, or artificial pyramid built up of " boulders" about seventy-five feet in height.—This pile of rocks looks very much, as if man had been the author; but if not Dame Nature must have had "a time of it" in getting them together. Travelling sixteen miles farther we encamped on the Ala Prele river. This stream is about as large as the La Bonte. This is a very good camping place. We left encampment next morning about 2 o'clock, in order to reach the "Lower ford and ferry of north Platte," distant eighteen miles, before another company immediately behind us. We learned afterwards that this *early start* was unnecessary, as they crossed another ford, twenty-seven miles "higher up." Eight miles from encampment we crossed the Fourche Bois river. Nine miles farther crossed Deer Creek and encamped, as the ferry boat about being built, by a gentleman from Ft Laramie, was not quite completed. Some of the company, assisted in finishing it, in order that we might get over next day.

Deer creek is about thirty feet wide and two feet deep, with a rapid current. There are some very good fish in this stream; but "one in hand is worth two in the water' 'as we found that they were not easily caught. Samuel Hanson, Joseph Jackson and some others, converted a wagon cover into a fish net; but it was "no go;" the result of the fishing being a *cold bath.*

There is a coral mine a short distance from the mouth of the creek.

Next morning Wm. Palmer of Mansfield, O. had an attack of cholera morbus, but was able to resume his share of camp work in the afternoon. About noon we broke up our camp, and moved to the ferry about one mile distant, and succeeded in getting every thing over safely before night.

The North Platte at this place is about one hundred and

twenty yards wide, and at this time four and a half feet deep. We encamped after crossing, having plenty of wood and some grass. There are some very beautiful volcanic rocks in this vicinity.

This ferry is one hundred and thirteen miles west of Ft Larimie.

Friday morning, may 10th left this encampment and after travelling twenty-two miles, generally near the river, encamped five miles below "Upper Platte Ferry and Ford.' During the afternoon a brown bear was killed by some of the company, not far from the bank of the river. Next morning after travelling five miles we struck the Platte for the last time.

The mineral lake and springs are seven miles farther, the waters of which are so highly impregnated with alkaline matter, as to be entirely unfit for use. After travelling about eighteen miles farther, we found a small stream of good water. There are a number of springs and creeks in this distance, but all highly alkaline. The mules and horses that were running loose, required considerable watching in order to prevent them injuring themselves by drinking this water. This part of the country is of volcanic origin.

CHAPTER V.

Same subject continued.—Fording rivers—Ice springs—Rain and hail storm.

Next morning May 12th. the thermometer at 4 1-2 o'clock A. M. stood at 26deg. Fahr. After travelling two and three fourth miles, we came to Willow Springs.—This is a good camping place, there being plenty of willows and good water. Prospect hill is one mile farther.—The Sweet Water mountains, are distinctly seen from the summit of this hill. Game is very abundant in this part of the country.

The Alkaline Lakes are about fourteen miles from "Prospect Hill." The surface of the earth here, is covered with almost pure carbonate of soda, varying from two to ten inches in thickness. This salt either for baking or any other use, is almost equal to the commercial article.—Our fuel here, and for hundreds of miles farther, was the

wild sage (artimissia.) This is an aromatic shrub differing considerably from the common garden sage. The stalks are found from one fourth of an inch, to three or four inches in diameter. It does not generally grow more than three or four feet high. After growing a few years, the stalks apparently break off at the surface of the earth, and seem entirely dead, while the tops are in full vigor.—In this condition it makes very good fuel.

A bird about as large as a chicken is found among the "Sage," and is called the Sage hen.

Independence Rock is five miles from the Alkaline Lakes. This rock stands "solitary and alone" in the valley of Sweet Water River, entirely separated from the neighboring mountains. It is about five hundred feet long, two hundred broad, and about two hundred and fifty in height. It is composed of granite. We left our names in *tar* upon this rock, as thousands had done before us.—We encamped on Sweet Water about half a mile above the rock.

After leaving this encampment we forded the river—its breadth at this place about sixty feet, and depth three; and five miles farther passed the "Devil's Gate." This is a fissure in the rocks through which the Sweet Water forces its way. At the lower entrance the "gate" is nearly eighty rods in width, but becomes gradually narrower until the river forces its way through a fissure but a few feet in width. At this point the walls are four hundred feet in perpendicular height. The scenery is fearfully grand—the water roaring at your feet—the naked walls of rock apparently almost meeting, above you, while large pieces seem ready, from the slightest cause, to be detached from the parent mass, and crush you in their descent. After leaving the "gate" the road runs near the river for ten miles, six miles farther there is a very muddy creek to cross. Four miles farther the road again strikes the river. There are two roads from this point, one leading to the left over the bluffs, while the other runs nearer the stream. They unite again in a few miles. The latter road is preferable as it is not so sandy. In the afternoon we travelled seven miles and encamped at the junction of the roads.—Wood and water convenient. Next morning we travelled ten miles and a half and forded the river. In the af-

ternoon we forded twice in the distance of one and a half miles. Encamped eight miles farther, near the river bank. There is another ford here. The "ice springs" are six miles farther. Ice may be obtained here almost any time during the summer, by digging down two or three feet.—There is a very marshy peice of road in this vicinity.—We *assisted* the *horses* and *mules* through this place, and pulled the wagons through *ourselves*, mud about two feet deep. This place may be avoided by going to the left, around the source of the springs. A large train would save several hours hard work by doing this. Ten miles farther we forded the river again. In the afternoon we travelled eight miles generally near the river, fording it twice. We encamped here near a marshy spring to the right of the road.

The evening before, the mail carrier from Ft. Hall met us, and gave us the *pleasing* intelligence, that we could get no provisions at the fort, as the soldiers had been on half rations during the winter, and had gone to Oregon city, until supplies should be recieved from the States.—He was travelling with some mormons from Salt Lake city. By them we sent some letters, which were to be mailed in Missouri.

Thursday May 16th, travelled in the forenoon fifteen miles to a branch of Sweet Water, crossing in the distance several small streams. We also passed a poplar grove a short distance to the left of the road. We had some trouble fording this branch, as there was a bank of snow, ten or fifteen feet deep, on each side. We forded a short distance below where the snow was not so deep. We *exercised* ourselves for a while, carrying rocks through the stream, *barefoot*, and placing them near the opposite bank, in order to get the wagons through more easily. Temperature of the water 32 deg. In the afternoon we were detained several times by snow banks. We travelled only seven miles, and encamped for the last time on Sweet Water. While getting supper we were visited by a rain and hail storm which abruptly concluded the *cooking* operations.

CHAPTER VI.

"South Pass,"—Separation,—Green River,—Ham's Ford.—A Supper.—Snow Road—Soda or Beer Springs—Steamboat Springs.

Next morning we forded the river, which was considerably swollen by rain, and melting of the snow. The wagon belonging to the Canton Mess, was overturned in the stream and their provisions considerably damaged.

Nine miles travel over a very good road brought us to the South Pass or summit of the Rocky mountains. This is about nineteen miles in width, with a very gradual ascent. Many pass over the mountains here, without knowing when they are at the summit, but the "twin mounds," two hills about sixty feet high, and sixty rods apart, will point this out, as they are very near the dividing ridge.—The "Pass" is about nine hundred miles west of St Joseph. Altitude 7490 feet Lat. 42°. 27′ N. Lon. 109° 27′ W.

The Pacific Springs are three miles west of the "Pass," Pacific creek one mile farther. This is one of the head branches of the Colorado river, which empties into the Gulf of California. The Dry Sandy is nine miles farther.—Junction of the Oregon and Salt Lake roads, six miles farther.

At this point our company was divided, a few going by Salt Lake in order to get some provisions. But the majority thought they could get through with the amount on hand. If we had taken the Ft. Bridger road to Ft. Ha'l we might have travelled together for some distance farther, but this is a roundabout way, about seventy-five miles farther, than by "Sublette's cut off."

The little Sandy is five miles from the junction. Here we encamped, that is the greater part of the company.—As our captain had just left (going by Salt Lake, all discipline was suspended,) and a part of the company, principally from Holmes county, O., travelled a few miles farther before encamping. A day or two after, we elected J. Weirick, of Dalton, captain, and something like order was again restored. Next morning (Sunday May 19th,)we left Little Sandy, and forded the Big Sandy five miles farther.

As there is no water and very little grass, between this

and Green River, distant 35 miles, we rested until one o'clock, P. M., in order to prepare our stock for this long drive. We likewise supplied ourselves with a considerable quantity of water.

We encamped, after travelling about 14 miles. This part of the road is tolerably level, but somewhat sandy in places. No fuel but wild sage. Next morning at 3 ½ o'clock, A. M. we left the encampment and reached Green river about noon. There are several very long, steep hills to ascend and descend in this distance.

As the river had not yet risen much, we were able to ford it. There are two islands in it at this ford. Width about 300 yards. This is a very dangerous stream to cross, owing to its width, depth and rapidity of current. It is rarely fordable during the months of June and July. Numbers are drowned annually in attempting to cross it. We rested here until next morning. In the evening we had a *cotillion party*. Our *spacious room* was illuminated, by lighting two or three dozens of sperm candles, and arranging them in the form of a circle.

Soon the violins were tuned up, and the *performances* commenced. The evening's entertainment was concluded by singing a few songs. Unfortunately none of the "gentler sex" was present.

Some of those who were in the best spirits on that evening, have long since found graves west of the Sierra Nevada.

Next morning we left the ford, and travelling about six miles, struck a branch of Green river coming in from the north-west. The road in this ditance is very tortuous, in one place going about a mile and a half in order to make about sixty rods : but the *peculiarities* of the country rendered this necessary. After striking this branch, we followed it about six miles, and crossed it. Rather difficult on account of the swollen state of the stream.

In the afternoon we travelled about thirteen miles, in a direction south of west, and encamped near the foot of some high bluffs, partially covered with snow.

At this place the Lamison and Peffer messes threw away their wagons and "went to packing." This is a very fine camping place—plenty of fir timber and snow water.

Next day eighteen miles travel brought us to Ham's fork of Green river.

This we found impossible to ford, on account of its swollen state. A wagon bed was, therefore, launched, and S. Coe and J. Mendenhall, Esq. *put aboard* to paddle it across. The rapidity of the current carried it under, and those on board swam ashore. A number followed it down stream, and recovered it about a half a mile below.

We then lashed two together, with a similar result. Nothing more towards ferrying was done this day. In the evening a supper was "got up," by the Hanson & messrs. Smith messes, of which quite a number partook.

Wild goose, wild duck, speckled trout, *dumplings*, *flapjacks*, hard bread, stewed fruit and coffee, comprised the "bill of fare." Next day was spent in getting logs from the mountains, and constructing a ferry.

Next morning the ferry was launched, the ropes arranged, and in a few hours every thing was safely landed on the opposite bank. The horses and mules swam across, without any loss. This stream is about fifty feet wide and six deep. Later in the season it is much shallower. Next day we travelled about twenty miles, over a very rough road, and encamped in Bear river valley, about three miles from the stream. During this day we were compelled to cut a road through the snow 83 yards long and four feet deep.

Next day (Sunday, May 26th,) we had several snow storms. About noon we forded Thomas' fork of Bear river. The Fort Bridger road unites with that through Sublette's cut off at this place. In the afternoon we travelled about 16 miles, and encamped near another branch of the river, about ten feet deep, but the current not rapid. Next day we ferried with an ordinary wagon bed.

The wagons being unloaded were drawn thro' the stream by ropes. Rather a laughable adventure occurred, while doing this. A wagon was started into the stream with two or three in it. It soon began to sink, and went down until the tops of the bows were the only parts above the surface. Terror was depicted on the visages of those in the wagon, who not being acquainted with the exact depth of the stream, seemed afraid that they too might get *lower than the surface*. We encamped about one mile from this cross-

ing. We now had good grass generally, and the stock was beginning to improve. Wild flax is found in this valley. Wild sage for fuel. Next morning we crossed some bluffs, and struck the river in six miles. Encamped twenty-one miles further down,—road very good. Several small streams to cross. Next day about noon we came to the "Soda Springs," 15 miles farther. They are about half a mile north of the road. The water is impregnated with carbonic acid, which gives it the property of holding certain minerals in solution. As it issues from the surface it loses this gas, and the minerals are precipitated. By this process large mounds of calcareous matter have been formed.

This water, on analysis, yields the following products :

Carbonate of Lime, - -	92. 50
do. Magnesia, - -	. 50
Silica, Alumina, and loss, - -	7. 90
	100. 00

With the addition of any of the vegetable acids, this makes very good Soda water.

Steam Boat Spring is about one mile lower down, and very near the bank of the river. The water is thrown from an orifice in the rock, to the height of several feet, with a kind of pulsatory or puffing motion.

In chemical constitution this water is somewhat similar to that of the Soda springs.

About four miles further the road leaves Bear river valley, and turns to the right, crossing, twenty miles further, a dividing ridge, which separates the waters of the Pacific from those of the Great Basin. We encamped near a spring of sweetish water, issuing from a bed of volcanic matter. This is about eight miles from the Soda or Beer springs.

Next night we encamped near the summit of the ridge last mentioned. We had several showers of rain during the night. Grass, good water and "sage," plenty.

Next day, when about three miles from encampment, we met a number of Indians and half breeds, who had some very good mules and horses to sell or *trade*. Our company made a number of exchanges, and bought several

horses. About twenty miles further we encamped near Fort Hall, crossing several small streams. The last eight miles, heavy sand road and marshy streams.

CHAPTER VII.

Fort Hall—Port Neuf River—American Falls—Raft River—Fall River—Oregon Road—Goose Creek—Castle Rocks—Salt Lake Valley.

There are two forts at this point; the upper one belonging to the United States, the lower to the Hudson Bay Company. They are about five miles apart. No supplies are to be obtained at either place, except *bacon* and *whiskey*,—the latter at six dollars per gallon. I think the establishment belonging to the United States, was deserted a few months since, probably on account of the severity of a number of the winters. We were informed that several hundred horses had died, during the winter of '49 and '50, from cold and want of food. Mr. Grant, of the lower fort, received us very kindly, and gave milk to those of the company who applied for it, for which he would receive nothing. This was the first we had seen since leaving the States.

These forts are situated on Lewis' Fork of the Columbia river, about 1,300 miles from St. Joseph.

At this time and for about ten days previously, great numbers of the Company were suffering from "Rocky Mountain Fever," peculiar to these mountains. It is very mild, and brief in its duration, rarely requiring more than a dose of calomel followed, if necessary, by a few doses of Dover's Powder or Ipecac. Aside from this we were all in the enjoyment of excellent health.

We lift these forts about 9 o'clock, A. M. (June 1st.) and about noon forded the Port Neuf river seven miles below. This stream is about one hundred yards wide, and four feet deep. The opposite bank is rather marshy.—The Panack River is seven miles lower down—would not be difficult to ford, but for its miry banks. There is a spring of good water six miles farther, in the valley of Lewis river. Here we encamped. We had considerable marshy road during this day.

Next morning, five miles travel brought us to the American Falls on Lewis River. The water falls thirty or forty feet over an irregular mass of rocks. A visit to the falls will amply repay the traveller for his trouble. Fall River is seventeen miles farther. This derives its name from the number of falls near its mouth. Many of them are old beaver dams petrified. It is about thirty feet wide and two feet deep. The descent to, and ascent from, the stream are pretty steep. We encamped on Raft River about eight miles farther. Good road this day.

Some who have written "Guides to California" describe the road from Ft. Hall to this river as being a very bad one, but if they were to travel it, they would hardly find the *desperate* places they describe. There is only one or two ravines in this distance and they are not at all troublesome.

Next morning forded the river at encampment and reforded one mile farther. Between these two fords we left the Oregon Road, which keep to the right, following for a considerable distance, Lewis or Snake river.

Fourteen miles from the second ford we again crossed it. The stream here is about twenty-five feet wide, and five feet deep. Being too deep to ford we made a bridge by drawing two wagons into it, and on these we carried across the baggage. The road on both sides of the stream at this crossing, is very marshy. Mud in many places from twelve to eighteen inches deep. Goose Creek is nine miles farther. We encamped here—plenty of wood, water and grass. Hedgpeth's cut-off comes in at this point. This "cut-off" leaves the road about four miles west of Soda Springs, and goes by a more direct route to Goose Creek. Probably twenty-five or thirty miles are gained by taking this "cut-off," but after all very little time is gained by it.

The weather at this time was pretty cool, especially in the morning, the thermometer at 5 o'clock A. M. generally from two to six degrees below the freezing point of water.

Next day towards evening we passed the "Castle Rocks," quite an assemblage of fantastically shaped rocks. Some *enterprising* traveller has painted the word "hotel" or "City Hotel" *in tar* on one of them. The "hotel" is suf-

ficiently large *externally;* but the accommodations at present are rather *slim.*

The road from Salt Lake city, comes in about three miles from the "rocks."

We encamped near a small stream one mile farther.—Plenty of red cedar wood, also good grass. Provisions were now becoming rather *scarce*, and we began using as a *substitute*, a weed or "greens" that is very abundant.—Though not as *nutritious* as a great many other things, we could at least "fill up" on it.

Permit us now to stop a short time, while we pen a few words in reference to the "Salt Lake Valley," after which we will resume the thread of our narrative. At the junction of the Oregon and Salt Lake roads, eighteen miles west of the South pass, the latter strikes off in a south west direction, crossing Big Sandy, Green River, Ham's Fork, and Black's Fork, from thence over the dividing ridges, separating the waters of the Gulf of California from those of the Great Basin. There are a great many streams to cross, and the country generally is very mountainous.—The city is situated between the Salt and Utah Lakes, and very well watered, artificially, by a small stream from the neighboring mountains. Though hemmed in by mountains the valley is very fertile, yielding good crops, of wheat and other grain. Mechanic Shops and mills have been built, and are in operation, and every thing seems to be in a very flourishing condition. It is settled principally by the Latter Day Saints or Mormons. There are large quantities of rock salt and other minerals in the neighboring mountains. Near the city there are hot, cold, and tepid springs within a few feet of each other, which afford great facilities for bathing establishments.

The Great Salt Lake north of the city is of considerable extent, but from late reports is very shallow, its greatest depth being but a few feet. It has no outlet but by evaporation. Its waters are strongly impregnated with saline matter; five gallons in the month of September or October yields fourteen pints of salt, being almost if not altogether, a saturated solution. The country west of the lake is barren and sandy, *producing* nothing in many places, but saleratus. There is a trail leading west from the city, intersecting the road from Ft. Hall on Humboldt river, but the

country is so inhospitable, that few travel it. The ordinary road leads north from the city, intersecting the other, ninety miles below Ft. Hall. We will now resume our narrative.

CHAPTER VIII.

Rattle Snake River—Hot Springs—Humboldt River—Sink—Lawson Route—Rabbit Wells—Desert—Hot Springs—Mud Lake.

Next day sixteen miles travel brought us to Rattle Snake river; and, after travelling fifteen miles, we encamped near the stream.

In the next forty-five miles, we found the road generally pretty good and water and grass plenty. At this point we pased a number of hot springs. Temperature near that of boiling water. The soil in this part of the route is strongly charged with alkaline salts. We were detained near the springs two or three hours, by a marshy piece of road. The ford of Humboldt River is forty miles farther. We crossed several marshy streams a few miles east of this ford. We arrived here June 8th, about noon. The river here is about thirty feet wide and six feet deep. We ferried it in a wagon bed, After loading up, and travelling half a mile, we were again detained by a very swampy branch of the river. We took the mules and horses from the wagons and *assisted them* across, after which we pulled the wagons through ourselves. This consumed the balance of the afternoon. and we therefore encamped.—About dark we were visited by a storm of rain for which we were well prepared, having already thrown away tents, wagon covers, and extra clothing. We had supposed these things, would be no longer required, as a "guide" we had with us, contained the expression, "it seldom rains here."

Next morning we crossed another branch about a mile from camp. This was not so miry as the other. There is another branch about twenty miles farther, about one hundred feet wide and three feet deep. Not difficult to ford. Encamped near the river seven miles farther. We had some grass here, but did not, as yet, see the line of

cotton wood and willow trees, which is said to mark the course of the river. Abont 21 miles farther the road forks, the left hand one keeping near the stream, crossing it a number of times, while the other does not cross it at all. Early in the season the river road can scarcely be travelled on account of the swollen state of the stream. The two roads frequently intersect each other. We encamped fifteen miles farther after crossing another small branch. Distance to day about thirty-six miles. Next forenoon we travelled about twelve miles and stopped near a spring of good water. Good grass here. This is on the bluffs several miles from the river. We generally had much better grass on these than in the immediate valley of the river.

From some cause we did not find much of the "blue grass, herds grass, clover and other nutritious grasses," with which the valley is said to be "beautifully clothed."

We encamped on the river fifteen miles farther. Grass poor. Cold rains nearly all day. "The great heat of the sun, and continued clouds of dust did not trouble us *very much*"* Next day we travelled about twenty-seven miles, generally near the river. Grass poor. Surface of the earth covered with alkaline salts. Small branches in this vicinity, are about the color of *good lye* from ashes. The whole country in wet weather, smells like an old *ashery*.—Grease Wood, a small, scruggy, prickly, ugly bush, comprises the *timber* in many places. Where this grows you will rarely find any thing else.

Travelled next day thirty miles, generally some distance from the river—country a sterile waste, not "furnishing the requisite for the emigrants' comfort in abundance"†

Cold and rainy all day.

Travelled next day about sixteen miles, finding pretty good in several places, sage for fuel. Rain and Snow during the night.

There is another very miry branch about 20 miles further. We crossed about a mile above the ordinary ford. Depth of stream three feet. Mud on the opposite bank about two feet. Here we again drew the wagons through by manual force.

* Ware's guide to California, page 33.
† Ware's guide to California, page 32.

Encamped in the river valley three miles farther. Next day we travelled about 24 miles, generally near the river. We could not travel in the immediate valley on account of the swollen state of the stream. The low bluffs are fatiguing, on account of the depth of the sand. We arrived at the point last mentioned, about 5 o'clock, P. M., and concluded we could go a short distance further.

Eight miles further, over a barren plain, we encamped, without any wood, water or grass. As we had nothing to cook by, and very little to cook, supper was dispensed with. Evening cold and rainy.

Leaving camp before breakfast, we reached the river again about sunrise—distant six miles from encampment.

We might remark here, that Humboldt river empties, or loses itself, in a marshy lake, surrounded with bullrushes, called the "Sink"; and from the features of the country we considered it not far distant.

We rested here until one o'clock. P. M., supplying ourselves with water and grass, to use while crossing the Great Desert.

Five miles farther we left the river, expecting to strike Truckies, or Salmon Trout, in forty miles. Instead of taking this road we should have gone on to the Sink, seventy-five miles farther, then across the desert to Truckies, or Carson river, and from thence across the mountains, to Johnson's or Bear river, or Hangtown, near the American.

But fortunately, or unfortunately, we took the Lawson, or *Green Horn's* cut off, which is farther than the other routes—but the road is better. There are also more and better grass and water.

We left the river about four o'clock, P. M., and travelled about 15 miles. After getting seven or eight miles from the river, we found good grass at a number of points.

Next day, about noon, we arrived at the "rabbit wells," sixteen miles further.

We found pretty good water in the wells,—but later in the season it is unfit for use.

There are hundreds of ox skeletons between the river and these wells, which had died the previous season, from lack of food, there being very little good grass after the first of July. Bunch grass is the principal article of food in this part of the route. This, in the proper season, is very

nutritious, being almost equal to oats or corn. It ripens about the middle of June. An hour's drive from the wells, brings you to the desert proper—a vast plain entirely destitute of vegetation.

The sand is very light and porous—the mules and horses sinking in six or eight inches, when it is perfectly dry. This, with the continued clouds of dust, renders travelling fatiguing and unpleasant. The road is strewed with wagons and every other species of property. The carcases of oxen are scattered every where. Owing to the heat and dryness of the atmosphere, these do not undergo putrefaction, but become dry and hard, leaving the animal almost entire.

The stillness of death reigns over this vast plain,—not the rustling of a leaf or the hum of an insect, to break in on the eternal solitude. Man alone dares to break it. The desert, on the different routes, varies in width from twenty to fifty miles.

The "Hot Springs" are about twenty-one miles from the "rabbit wells." There is some grass near them. The main one is about twelve feet in diameter, and probably one hundred feet deep. Water perfectly transparent,—temperature that of boiling water. Meat may be boiled in a few minutes.

There are other springs and wells in the vicinity, but the water, late in the season, is too brackish to be fit for use. The road between the springs and Mud lake is pretty sandy,—very little grass or water,—distance 25 miles. We encamped here Wednesday evening June 19th.

About three miles from encampment we gained the summit of a bluff. There is said to be pure silver scattered over this. There is a small lake about two miles farther, to the left of the road. A short distance from the lake the road enters a very narrow, rocky ravine, or valley—very narrow and tortuous in many places—with perpendicular rocks on each side, several hundred feet in height.

There is a small stream of good water and good grass in this valley. It is about twenty miles in length. A few miles from the ravine we found a few gallons of good vinegar, which had been left by some emigrant. This was quite an addition to the "greens."

We encamped about thirty miles from the exit from the

last mentioned valley. In this distance we passed a number of small lakes, which line the western rim of the "Great Basin." Next morning we stopped and breakfasted on *greens*, *oats*, &c., near some hot springs about two miles from encampment. We stopped at the base of the Sierra Nevada, six miles farther, crossing a marshy valley containing several lakes.

CHAPTER IX.

Sierra Nevada—Pitt River—Indian Difficulties—An Oregon Company—Something to eat—Murder of the Canton mess.

We travelled along the base of the mountains about six miles before beginning the ascent.

During this time, and for days before, several members of the company thought we were on the road to Oregon, or *some* place *else* than California, and advised the expediency of going back. This probable would not have been proposed, had it not been, that we were almost entirely out of provisions. But the majority were for going ahead, let the road lead where it would, as some mules might be killed for food, did things become desperate.

About three miles from the beginning of the ascent, the Salem and Hanson messes with the exception of J. Mendenhall and J. Campbell, took the "back track" for Humboldt River, distance one hundred and fifty miles, having to recross the desert, and again cross it on the "Carson" or "Truckie" route.

We began ascending the mountain about four o'clock, P. M. and encamped for the first time west of the "Sierra Nevada," or snowy mountain. It is very steep at this pass, but not so rocky as at the Carson or Truckie.

It was not found necessary to double any of the teams.

The scene from the summit is grand in the extreme.—Lofty ranges of mountains, are seen distinctly though distant hundreds of miles. Their summits crowned with eternal snow, and their sides with dense forests of pine and cedar. Owing to the dryness and purity of the atmosphere, the outline of the most distant object is distinctly marked. All the varied scenery of the four seasons are recognized at a single view. The valleys clothed with vegetation, the mountain tops presenting all the indices of perpetual win-

ter. Between these two extremes there is every variety of climate.

Next morning (Sunday 23d,) discovering indications of marshy road ahead, we concluded to make "this the last day with the wagons," and begin packing. Accordingly the wagons were converted into pack-saddles as soon as possible, extra baggage thrown away, and by noon we were again "en route."

During the afternoon we travelled along the eastern shore of Pitt Lake, and encamped opposite the southern extremity of it.

Distance this afternoon eighteen miles. Next day about noon we reached Pitt river. eighteen miles further. Ten miles further we forded it, and encamped four miles further.

We were detained in the afternoon by a case of poisoning. Mr. Daniel Rudy, of Stark county, O., eat rather plentifully of a root, which in taste and appearance resembles the fat of hogs. This proved a very violent emetic, and might produce death in certain cases. Some were quite elated, when the root was discovered; remarking that they could "now have fat to cook with the greens,"—but the result of the first experiment crushed their *brilliant* expectations.

Next day we travelled about thirty miles, fording the river several times.

Road considerably marshy. We avoided this by travelling on the neighboring bluffs. During the day we noticed several Indian signal fires, but did not anticipate an attack from them. A few hours undeceived us. Next morning, some time before day light, a party of Digger Indians, killed, wounded and drove off, more than half of the stock belonging to the company, without making any attack upon ourselves.

We had not been apprehending any trouble from these tribes, and had no one on watch. This carelessness, together with our being nearly without arms, rendered it a very easy matter to accomplish the robbery. A few remained at camp in order to pack the baggage, or part of it, on what horses and mules remained, while the balance went in search of any that might be found in the vicinity. We were to meet about three miles further. About one mile from camp

we found the body of "Spot," a splendid mare belonging to the messrs. Hoovers' of Dalton. She had borne, well, the fatigues of the journey, and had rendered us signal service the evening before, while crossing the stream. The Indians had carried away part of the carcase, and some of our company took a part of that which was left. About ten o'clock, A. M., we met at the place before designated, and held a "council of war."

It was determined that our *only gun* should, if possible, be brought into *shooting order*—a service which it had *ceased* to perform for some time previously. A similar decree was passed upon what pistols we had.

It was also determined that R. F. Cahill and Wm. M'Connell shonld take horses, and go ahead to the nearest settlements, and return with some provisions, while we in the meantime should hurry along as fast as possible. They accordingly set out with about one pound of provisions, consisting of boiled corn, scraps of hard bread, and dried apples, *mixed together*. We travelled about six miles further, and stopped for *dinner*. Bill of fare boiled corn and *horse beef!* (We had reserved some corn and oats to feed the stock while crossing the desert; but as it was not required, we began boiling it for our *own* use.)

While *dining* Cahill and M'Connel returned, informing us, that they had overtaken an Oregon train which was a few miles ahead, and from which we might get some provisions. We learned that we were yet about two hundred miles from the settlements. We at once started forward regardless of road or rocks, and overtook the Oregonians about 5 o'clock, P. M. At our request they prepared some supper, for which we paid them one dollar per man. Taking their prices as a standard, I suppose we eat three or four dollars worth. We paid them one dollar per pound for flour and bacon and fifty cents for shorts, and could not get a sufficient supply at these rates.

We thought these rates very high, and as some of them required some medical attention, our fees were made to correspond to a certain extent with *theirs*, an arrangement which seemed to *grind* some of them considerably. At this place we crossed Pitt River for the last time. On this river there is a rock of pure carbonate of magnesia, about one hundred feet in height—enough to supply the

world for ages. It is as pure and light as the commercial article. There are also near the source of the river—some very peculiar crystalized rocks, some of them, two four sided pyramids applied base to base.

About two days, after we were robbed by the Indians; the Canton mess consisting of seven or eight persons were killed at the same place. They had been travelling with us until about the time we struck Humboldt River, but their team giving out they were compelled to drive more slowly. They encamped on the river (Pitt,) and during the evening were attacked. One was killed. Next morning they were visited by a few, who by signs informed them, that in order to secure themselves from another attack, they should at once leave their encampment and move forward. This they declined doing, as they were determined to bury their friend, and wait for the Messrs. Childs and Miller, who were a short distance behind. In a short time they were attacked by a larger number, who took from them every thing they had, leaving them entirely naked. They were then ordered to swim the stream, but before reaching the opposite shore were, with a single exception, killed by a shower of arrows. At this moment the report of a gun in the vicinity, caused them to retreat precipitately, leaving George Stuck of Canton, in the stream, among the bushes lining its banks, badly wounded.

Miller and the Childs' coming up in a few moments, rescued him from his perilous situation, gave him clothing, and brought him to Lawson's. The gun of which we have spoken had been fired at a dove, by one of the Childs.—Stuck remained near Lawson's for a short time, but being supplied with funds he started for home. While in San Francisco he was attacked by diarrhœa or dysentery and died. These Indian tribes have been warring with the whites, especially the Oregonians, for a number of years, each party destroying one or more of the other, when ever an opportunity presents itself. This accounts for these attacks. These tribes are great cowards and never make an attack, unless the odds are greatly in their favor. We had thrown away our arms and were therefore unprepared to resist the most feeble attack. These Indians were severely chastised by several companies from California settlements, during the last summer.

CHAPTER X.

Getting Short again—A party of "Prospecters"—Feather River meadows—Deer Creek—Lawson's.

After purchasing our provisions, and making inquiries in reference to the road, we again set forward, and after trrvelling sixteen miles encamped on Pitt River in company with the Oregonians. Some were already complaining of being sick; but when it is remembered that we had been living on almost nothing for some time, it is readily supposed that entirely too much was eaten when the opportunity presented itself, and derangement of the digestive organs, might as a matter of course, be expected to result.

Friday June 28th. Left encampment, and at once entered on a piece of marshy ground of ten miles in breadth. Depth of mud from one to three feet. Encamped twelve miles farther,—wood, water and grass, plenty.

Next two days travelled about forty miles and encamped near a small lake, in company with a party of "prospecters" a term applied to those, in search of "diggins."

Our supply of provisions growing "short" we were again on *rations*. We were presented with some fresh venison, by the miners. They informed us that the mining districts generally were crowded, that provisions had become much cheaper, and people in general not growing rich very fast

Next day we travelled about twenty-eight miles and encamped near "Feather River Meadows." Next morning left encampment very early and arrived at the ford about sun rise, distant three miles. The river runs through the valley here, in two different branches. Early in summer, the entire valley one and a half miles in width, is entirely covered with water. The branches were about four feet deep, the remainder of the valley varied from one to three feet of mud and water. Cold, wet, and hungry, we stopped on the opposite bluff, to prepare and eat our scanty breakfast. The following scene will give the reader an idea of our *financiering* in cookery.

A. Clark, M. Hoover, and *ourself* were cooking for ourselves and eleven others belonging to the mess. Our stock of provisions, consisted of a lot of musty tea, a few pounds of flour and a few dried elder berries. Hoover made the tea, while Clark and I made the *soup* and *dumplings*,—the

preparations of the latter articles, being by *experimental philosophy*, deemed the most economical method of disposing of the flour. A handful of the berries were put into two camp kettles holding about six gallons of water.—These gave *color* and *consistency* to the *soup*. A small quantity of flour was then made into a stiff batter. This was carefully divided by a spoon into a certain number of pieces, corresponding to the number of individuals in the mess.

The result of this *ceremony* was always announced in order that each one might learn, the amount of his share. I suppose any one might have eaten the entire amount, of course excluding a portion of the six gallons of tasteless soup.

Next day, forenoon, travelled two miles, and *dined* on musty tea alone.

Encamped fourteen miles farther, in "Little Valley," on Deer Creek.

Next day about noon we stopped at a small stream, the last water we had until reaching the valley of the Sacramento River. In the afternoon and night, we, or least some of us, reached dry creek in the valley, distant thirty miles—the road mountainous and rocky. A few got through to water, but the majority were scattered along the road for several miles, worn out by hunger, thirst, and fatigue.

Next day Thursday July 4th, about noon, we encamped on Deer Creek about half a mile from Lawson's Rancho.

We got up a Fourth of July dinner on musty hard bread, and beef bones in a state of *incipient putrefaction*, which was as highly relished by us, as any of the more *sumptuous* repasts, served up to our friends in the States.

We were received, and treated very kindly by a party of miners, who were *jerking* beef in the vicinity of our camp.

From this time the members of our company began to separate, and in a few days were as a general thing, hundreds of miles apart. Those who came by the Salt Lake, Carson and Truckie routes, reached Sacramento Valley about the time we did.

CHAPTER XI.

Native Gold—Where found—methods of obtaining it.

This metal is obtained pure, or in combination with silver, copper, iron, palladium, or tellurium. It is also found combined with the sulphuret or oxide of iron. When melted and thrown up by Volcanic agency, it is found in every possible variety of shape. When crystalizing it generally assumes the form of the cube or octohedron.

Its feeble affinity for oxygen prevents it from tarnishing, and by this property is readily detected, when in combination with those metals that do not, so highly, possess this property. Geologically it is found in granite, quartz, mica, slate, syenites, green stone, and trachyte. In the mines of California generally with quartz.

Small grains or larger pieces are observed studding the surface of the latter rock, but many specimens contain considerable quantities, which cannot be detected by the senses.

In order to obtain it the rock is pulverized, triturated with quicksilver, which readily unites with it, and the compound being washed out, the quicksilver is distilled off, leaving the gold in the retort.

Gold is not acted upon by nitric, sulphuric, or chlorhydic acids, while many of the other metals are. When combined with silver, copper or iron, the compound may be placed in one of the acids, which acts upon these, while the gold remains unaffected. The *aqua regia* of the old chemists, a combination of nitric and chlorohydric acids, will dissolve it, though not affected by either one separately employed.

Gold is found in California, in fine dust, or in pieces weighing from a grain to several pounds. That from the middle Fork of the American River, and Feather River, in the latter part of its course, is generally in the form of scales, and is very pure.

From the North Fork of Feather River and some other streams, in irregularly shaped lumps, frequently, coated with black oxide of iron.

The gold from the "Kayote" diggins on Deer creek contains, I believe some silver, and is not worth more than

fourteen dollars per ounce, while that from other "diggins" is worth from sixteen to sixteen and a half.

This metal is generally sought for and obtained in the mountainous parts of the country, in the bars along the streams, or the gulches or ravines along the mountain sides—The former constitutes the "wet" the latter the "dry" diggins. The "wet" are worked during the latter months of summer after the water has fallen enough to expose the bars. The "dry" during the rainy season when the ravines have water in them. Small quantities of fine gold may be carried down the rivers near their mouths, but in quantities too inconsiderable to make it an object to wash it out. During the summer of 1850 the majority of miners were engaged in "daming" the streams, supposing that valuable deposits would be found in their beds, but these generally failed, scarcely one in ten paying expenses.—Many who were in possession of several thousand dollars in the spring, found themselves when the dams were completed, without any thing, and deeply in debt.

In order to obtain the "dust," the soil, sand, and shingle is dug out from among the rocks, placed in a pan or washer, and washed off, the gold from its great specific weight being precipitated to the bottom. If the gold be fine, mercury is mixed with the dust, their affinity causing them to unite at once. The amalgam is then placed in a retort and the mercury distilled off.

Machines are being erected in many places to crush quartz rock, many specimens of which yield from twenty-five to fifty cents per pound. This in the course of a few years will be the principal business carried on by gold hunters, as the bar and ravine washings, are as a general thing, pretty well worked out.

The gold mines of the far west, occupy quite an extensive region—Gold is obtained from many of the rivers of Oregon—from the Salt Lake country,—the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada, and from nearly all the streams in Upper California.

The vast amount of this metal in the possession of the Montezumas, at the time Mexico was conquered by the Spaniards, had been obtained, most probably, in the mountains on the Gila River. The Indian tribes in this part of the country, seem to have some knowledge on this point,

and make every effort to prevent the whites fronm exploring the country.

They are also in possession of certain traditions, which say these mines were once extensively worked, and yielded large quantities of Gold.

The roughness of the country and hostility of the Indians have as yet prevented many from exploring it.

It should not be undertaken by less than a company of thirty men, armed with revolvers, with good mules and plenty of provisions. Even then, it would be a trip attended with extreme danger and privation.

CHAPTER XII.

Climate of California,--its Cause--,Soil,—Productions,—Animals, &c.

The climate of California is considerably milder than at the same latitude on the Atlantic coast. The whole Pacific coast of North America follows the same law; the difference in temperature being equal to ten or fifteen degrees of latitude. The following theory will, probably, explain satisfactorily the cause of this difference. Large tracts of high land, in or near the polar regions, serve as vast magazines of cold, which exert a chilly influence on countries at considerable distances from them. The large tracts of land north and north-east of British America, no doubt, exert this effect upon the Atlantic coast, and U. States proper; while the country on or near the Pacific coast, is not subject to such an influence. Water especially, when in a large body, exerts an equalizing effect on the climate of a country—moderating the cold of winter and heat of summer; preventing what are called "excessive climates."—The North Pacific, probably, exerts an effect of this kind.

There are, properly, but two seasons in California—the "*wet*" and "*dry.*"

It generally begins to rain between the first of November and latter part of December, and continues until about the middle of April. There are frequent intermissions, during which the weather is as mild as during our April.—Grass, and vegetation generally, begins to grow at the commencement of this season.

From the middle of April until the ensuing "winter,"

there is generally no rain—the sun being unobscured by clouds for months at a time. Owing to this, vegetation begins to suffer about the middle of June.

During the months of July and August the temperature is frequently as high as 140 deg. in the sun, and 110 or 112° in the shade. But owing to the dryness of the atmosphere, this exalted temperature is not more insufferable than that of 75 deg. in the "States"—this condition of the air promoting a rapid evaporation.

An individual perspiring freely, feels comfortable during the hottest months.

There is scarcely ever any dew, especially in the valleys.

The climate of this country is certainly as pleasant as any in the world.

Occasionally there is but very little rain during the wet season,—and if this be the case, vegetation the ensuing season is apt to suffer very much. The last winter has been one of this description. Fifteen years ago there was a similar one. Great numbers of cattle perished during the next summer for want of grass.

The soil of this country varies according to circumstances. The valleys are generally fertile, producing large crops of wheat, barley, oats, corn, &c. Forty bushels of wheat to the acre, is but an ordinary crop. Various kinds of grains grow spontaneously.

South of the bay of San Francisco, in the vicinity of San Jose, oats grow six or seven feet in height, and half an inch in diameter.

Last year's oats stalks made good *walking sticks!* Good crops of potatoes, turnips, radishes, melons, squashes, cucumbers and tomatoes, are raised without much labor.

The mountains are thickly covered with pine and cedar, *(pinas colorado, and pinas monophyllus)* but the country is too rough and cold for agricultural purposes.

The principal animals are black tailed deer, antelope, elk, coati, generally called "Kayotes," and last though not least the Grizzly Bear. The principal domestic animals, are Spanish cattle and horses, with a few hogs and sheep.

There are plenty of deer, antelope and elk, in all parts of the country—the indolence of the natives preventing them from hunting them, and the rich pastures affording food to multitudes of them.

The coati, an animal belonging to the wolf family, is found in great numbers.

The grizzly bear is found in or near the mountainous districts. This animal, in color, somewhat resembles the buffalo, the extremities are short, but supplied with muscles of immense power. The feet are supplied with massive claws, designed for tearing up roots rather than for scratching. The average weight may be put down as eight hundred pounds, though some have been killed weighing over two thousand!

They are very tenacious of life, and cannot be entirely disabled at once, unless the ball penetrates the brain. A dozen balls may be driven through the most important organs of the body, and they are still able to fight three or four men.

They are not disposed to begin an attack; but when aroused, or wounded, are rather *ugly game*. The hunter, when on foot, should not attack them, unless there be a tree near, on which he may take refuge. The flesh of this bear is superior to beef or buffalo.

The horses, generally, are descendants of those brought to Mexico by the Spaniards. They are of the ordinary size, active, and capable of enduring a great deal of fatigue. Immense numbers were at the different "ranchos," or farms, prior to the discovery of the gold mines, and were then worth almost nothing.

Some proprietors owned from fifteen to twenty-five thousand. If a horse was hired, they were generally satisfied, if the saddle and bridle were returned.

The Spanish cattle make much better beef than ours,—though living on nothing but grass. They are, generally, pretty wild, and require the *lasso* to capture them.

Some are very docile, and may be taught to be of essential service in driving cattle.

Neal has an ox which will lead a beef to any butcher's establishment, however distant; keeping it in the road, and standing apparently unconcerned, while it is knocked down and bled. He is then sent home alone. When his services are gain required, he must be *lassoed*—to avoid which he makes every effort to secrete himself among the bushes.

There are plenty of wild fowl, such as wild geese and ducks, quails, sandhill cranes, &c.

The rivers abound in fish, of the salmon family, varying from two to four feet in length. The markets of this country are well supplied with nearly every variety of *flesh, fish, or fowl.*

The time for making rapid fortunes, by gold mining, has gone by; but those who desire a pleasant home in the far west, will be as well satisfied with this country, as any other west of the Rocky mountains.

CHAPTER XIII.

The "Diggers"—Habits—Religion, &c.,—Mexicans—a Fandango—Chief Towns.

The Indians of California belong to what is called the Digger tribe. They live upon roots, grass, *bugs*, *grasshoppers*, acorns and fish. Acorns are gathered in great quantities, pounded into a kind of meal, and baked. This, with dried fish, constitutes their principal food.

They go entirely naked—their *birth-day* suits lasting all their lifetime. Their houses are little better than large ovens, built in the following manner: A hole is dug from twenty to fifty feet in diameter, and about four feet deep—a frame work placed over this, and the whole covered with dirt. An opening is left at one side, to crawl in and out at. They are almost entirely destitute of horses, dogs, or any other domestic animal. The bow and spear are their only weapons.

A predatory warfare is carried on between the different tribes, generally between the "mountain" and "valley" tribes.

As they are not blessed with much property, real or personal, squaws are about the only spoils of victory.

Numbers of these are carried away, as captives, when a "ranchere" or Indian village is taken.

Their religion is pagan, worshiping trees, water, earth, &c. Their *fandangoes* are religious ceremonies. Several are held during each year, and are considered very important occasions. During the day numbers of them, collect at some particular *ranchere* to make preparations for the "scene" at night.

Their naked bodies are painted in every variety of style,

and their hair tied up, and covered with feathers, pieces of cloth, beads &c. About dark a small fire is built in the centre of a large hut, giving just enough light to make *darkness visible*. Around this fire, fifty or sixty collect, and the dance or tramp begins, keeping time with their hands, arms, head and nearly every part of the body.

The music is a short chant, kept up by the dancers, though the greatest noise is produced by the tramp of their bare feet on the soft earth.

They have a musical instrument, which is simply a tube, having a couple of holes in it, flute like, to produce the *modulations*. It resembles neither a bugle, flute, clarionet, flagelet, or any thing else, *except another* one of *the same kind*.

I think the playing of this instrument is almost beyond the "ken" of any thing connected with civilization.

When the temperature of the "oven" is at about 150°, and the perspiration running in streams off the bodies of the actors, the whole thing resembles more the midnight orgies of demons, than any thing *human*.

When an individual dies, a hole is dug at the mouth of his hut, the body put in and covered, after which, his property is laid on the grave and burned.

The mourners keep up a dismal howling for several days. This is the general custom, though some tribes burn the body and scatter the ashes to the winds.

They are passionately fond of gambling, and never quit the game, until one of the parties is *dead broke*. The game is played in the following manner.

Two having seated themselves on the ground opposite each other, the one takes a small pebble, and passing it from one hand to the other requires the other, to tell in which hand it is.

If he fails to tell, one is counted on the game, if otherwise the other takes the pebble. Seven constitutes the game. They are fond of intoxicating drinks, are great cowards, and generally dishonest.

Many have been kept at the catholic missions and have in this way acquired some knowledge of the Spanish language.

The Mexicans are indolent and superstitious. They have two or three phrases which are almost constantly in use.

If asked to do any thing, they *no quiere* (don't care or don't want to.)

To almost every question, even the most simple, you get the answer *quiere sabe* (who knows) or I don't know.

The following anecdote will illustrate their ignorance or carelessness. A gentleman seing a girl carrying a child, and wishing to enter into conversation asked her the question: *Quiere es le padre de esta, senoritta (*who is the father of this, senoritta, pointing to the child) *quiere sabe senor* (who knows, sir.)

They are too indolent to raise much grain or vegitables, being content to live on beef, onion, garlic and pepper.

They are very pious during their attendance at church, but bring their chickens with them; tying them outside until the services are concluded in order to save the *labor* of returning home for them.

After services are over cock and bull fighting consume the balance of the day. A Fandango *comes off* in the evening. This about sums up a Mexican's idea of life. For cowardice they cannot be beaten any where.

A Comanche Indian would almost think he was *compromising his dignity*, by fighting one of them.

We will conclude by giving the situation and commercial importance of some of the principal cities and towns. San Francisco situated on a bay of the same name a few miles from its mouth, is the largest town in the state, contains many good buildings of brick and iron. It has the best harbor in the world, and is the principal port on that part of the coast.

Sacramento City on the Sacramento River, 175 above San Francisco is the second place in the state. The river is navigable for the largest vessels the greater part of the year. In commercial importance it almost equals San Francisco. Freemont is a small place situated on Sacramento River, just below the mouth of Feather River.—Marysville at the junction of Feather and Yuba Rivers, is growing rapidly, and is in a very flourishing condition.—Small streams ply between it and Sacramento city during the greater part of the year. It is fifty miles by land above the latter place.

Nevada city is situated on Deer creek forty miles above Marysville.

Hangtown is near the American River, about fifty miles above Sacramento city. Three men were hung here in one day for stealing, and from this the place derives its name. Stockton and Benicia are situated on the bay of San Francisco.

They are places of considerable importance. There are a few towns in the southern mines but we are unacquainted with their situation, and importance.

GUIDE TO CALIFORNIA,

BY THE

Overland Route.

TO THE EMIGRANT.

YOU are about to undertake a long, tedious, and somewhat dangerous journey; and it is highly necessary that you should be acquainted with the *minutiæ* of the route, and the outfit required, in order to take you safely and expeditiously to the land of your destination. Without these it would be an adventure attended with insuperable difficulties.

Endeavor to make an early start—do not wait for grass, but carry along grain sufficient to supply your stock until "grass comes." Start from the Missouri river as early as the first of April, and you will get through soon enough, be detained less by streams, and have better grass in the latter part of the route.

In reference to the starting point, St. Joseph is probably as good as any you may select. You can procure nearly every article necessary for the outfit; the road is good, and the distance to the Platte river less, than from Weston, Kansas or Independence.

A mess of 6 persons should provide themselves with 3 wagons, and 12 mules or horses. Mules not less than 6 or 8 years old are preferable. Two of said wagons should be light 1 horse ones. In these load your provisions, clothing, (just enough to take you through) and other necessary baggage. The other may be a common two horse wagon—on which load forty or fifty bushels of corn, oats or barley. If you can, put a few extra bushels on your light wagons. See that these are well made; have the wheels high, and the beds water tight.

Thus equipped you need not wait for grass. Be careful that you do not start with any unnecessary baggage; if you do you will throw it overboard before you get half way through. The road at present is strewed with nearly every thing from a steam engine to a child's cradle, that has thus been disposed of.

The following amount of provisions will be sufficient for a mess of six persons:

Flour,	500 lbs.	Pepper,	1 lb.
Hard Bread,	250 do.	Sugar,	100 do.
Bacon,	500 do.	Molasses,	10 gals.
Corn Meal,	60 do.	Dried Fruit,	2 b.
Coffee,	30 do.	Carbonate Soda,	
Tea,	5 do.	(for baking,)	2 lbs.
Chocolate,	10 do.	Pickles,	1 small keg.
Rice,	10 do.		

You want a complete camp kettle, coffee pot, frying pan, tin plates and cups, knives, forks and spoons. The frying pan will do to bake *flap jacks*, a very good kind of bread; not very *digestible*, but probably as much so as any other you will *get up*.

One gun, with a pound or two of powder, will be sufficient for each mess. You need not be afraid of Indians, until you get on the latter part of the route.

The Pawnees, Sioux, Crows and Snakes, will most probably treat you civilly enough, if you observe the Golden Rule. The "Diggers" on Humboldt river and Upper California, may attempt to injure you, or your stock, but the *report* of a gun will generally sufficiently *frighten them*.

You should provide yourselves with gum elastic sacks, to carry water on those parts of the route where it is scarce. Every mess should have a saw, auger, and a few nails.

Be careful that you do not form too large a company,—thirty men are enough.

Do not be in too much haste in electing officers. Travel a few days—become thoroughly acquainted with each other; then elect a captain in whom you are prepared to place the utmost confidence. As soon as each mess gets ready to start, cross the river, and encamp near the bluffs, six miles from St. Joseph.

While here examine every thing connected with your outfit. See that every thing is in order, and that no indispensable article has been forgotten.

In camping arrange the wagons in the form of a circle. During the evening the stock may be staked outside, and not bro't within the enclosure until the night watch is placed.

From the bluffs take the right hand road.

From this point to Big Blue, (road good, and a sufficient number of camping places,)	120 miles.
To Platte Valley, ...	190
Fort Kearney, ...	10----320
(Road good, wood scarce. Part of this distance you travel near the Little Blue.)	
South Platte ford, ...	175
(Road level—buffalo chips for fuel.)	

Ash Hollow (good encampment.)	14	miles.
Court House Rock, ...	68	
(Heavy sand road in many places.)		
Chimney Rock, ...	12	
Scott's Bluffs, ...	5	
"Black Smith Shop,"	22	
(Water scarce in this distance,)		
Horse Creek, ...	12	
Camping place, ...	12	
"Roubidous,"	10	
Camping place, ...	12	
Ft. Larimie and Larimie River, ...	4	——666
Long Hill to descend, ...	7	
(4 miles from the fort take the left hand road.)		
"Warm Springs,"	5	
Good Camping place, ...	17	
(Take the right hand road from the springs.)		
Creek (good camp,)	8	
(Easily forded.)		
Platte River, ...	8	
Do.	7	
La Bonte River (20 ft. wide—2 ft. deep,)	20	
(Road hilly and scarcely any water.)		
Branch of La Bonte, ...	5	
A La Prela River (good camp,)	15	
Fourche Bois (40 ft. wide—2½ ft. deep,)	8	
Platte River, ...	4	
Deer Creek (good camp,)	5	
North Platte Ferry, ...	1	——776
Camping place, ...	12	
(Some heavy road.)		
Upper Ferry of North Platte,	15	
Small Stream, ...	25	
(In this distance you pass a number of lakes and springs ; but the water is so charged with alkaline matter as to be unfit for use.)		
Willow Springs, ...	23	
Prospect Hill, ...	1	
Small Creek, ...	8¼	
Alkaline Lakes, ...	6¼	
Sweet Water River, ...	4¼	
Independence Rock, ...	3¾	
Sweet Water Ford, ...	1	
Devil's Gate, ...	4	
Creek, ...	½	
Do.	½	

Miry Do·	6 miles,	
Sweet Water River, ...	4	
(Take right hand road.)		
Sweet Water, ...	3	
Sage Creek, ...	2	
Good Camp, ...	3	
Creek, ...	2	
Road leaves the River, ...	2	
Strikes it again (ford—2½ ft. deep,)	6	
Ford and reford, ...	1½	
Ford (some heavy road,)	8	
Ice springs, ...	5¾	
Alkaline Swamps,	¼	
Ford, ...	10	
Branch of Sweet water,	½	
Summit of hill, ...	1¾	
Ford, ...	2	
Reford, ...	½	
Creek and spring (good camp,)	3	
Hilly road for, ...	3	
Creek, ...	3	
2 Small creeks in next,	2	
Strawberry creek, ...	2	
Quaking Aspen creek,	1	
Branch of Sweet Water,	2¾	
(May 16th. 1850 10 feet snow.)		
Willow Creek, ...	2¼	
Sweet Water ford	4¾	
South Pass, ...	10	949
Pacific Springs, ...	3	
Do. Creek, ...	1	
Dry Sandy (no water in this distance.)	10	
Junction of Oregon and Salt Lake roads,		
(Right hand road to Ft. Hall.)	6	
Little Sandy, ...	5	
Big Sandy, ...	5	
May 19, 1850—40 ft. wide—2½ ft. deep.)		
Green River, ...	35	
(No water in this distance·)		
Ford the river at the islands. Strike the upper point of first one, then lower point of second one, then the shore. Bold stream, generally dangerous to cross.		
Muddy creek, ...	2½	
Branch of Green River,	4½	
(Road hilly and crooked.)		

Ford of this branch, ...	5 miles,	
(May 21st, 1850—60 feet wide—3½ deep—current rapid.)		
"Bluffs" (good camp,)	12	
Ham's Fork of Green River,	17	
(Road hilly—water plenty.)		
(May 22nd, 60 feet wide—8 ft. deep—current rapid.)		
Grove of Timber, ...	12	
Small stream, ...	4	
Bear River valley, ...	4	
(Small stream here to the right of the road.)		
Thomas' Fork of Bear (ford,)	12	
(If you cannot cross at the ordinary ford, go half a mile higher up.)		
Branch (road good water plenty,)	17	
(May 27th, 40 feet wide—7 ft. deep.)		
Foot of Bluffs, ...	1	
Bear River, ...	5	
Creek 2 ft. deep (road good,)	6	
Camp (water plenty, road good)	15	
Beer or Soda Springs,	15	
Steamboat Springs, ...	½	
Road leaves the River,	4——1151	
(Take the right hand road to Ft. Hall. The left is "Hedgpeth's Cut-off" strikes the other road about 70 miles below Ft. Hall.)		
Small Stream and Volcanic Spring,	4	
(Good Camping place.)		
Creek (Road good,)	8	
Miry Stream, ...	7	
Summit of Ridge, ...	5	
Ft. Hall (marshy or sandy road,)	25——1200	
Trading Station of Hudson's Bay Co.	5	
Creek 60 ft. wide, ...	3	
Ford of Port Neuf (100 yds. wide—4 ft. deep,)	4	
Panack River (somewhat miry,)	7	
Spring to the right of the road,	6	
American Fall on Lewis River.	4	
Good camping place (2 or 3 ravines,)	10	
Small Rocky Stream, ...	1	
Fall River ford (30 ft. wide—2 ft. deep,)	6½	
Raft River ford (good camp,)	7½	
Reford, ...	1	
(Oregon road between these fords,)		

Third Ford of Raft River (marshy near the river,)	14	miles,.
Goose creek, ...	9	
Ford of Do.	5	
Good camp, ...	9	
Do. (mountainous,)	14	
(Pass the "Steeple Rocks" in this distance. The trail from Salt Lake city intersects the road about 1 mile before reaching the last mentioned camp.)		
Creek (several small streams in this distance,)	16	
Follow this creek (Road good.)	21	
Small stream, ...	12	
Follow it, ...	8	
Cross the bluffs and reach a creek	12	
Hot Springs, ...	7	
Marshy Road for, ...	1½	
Camp, ...	5	
Summit of a ridge, ...	2	
Tolerably good camping place (soil alkaline,)	18	
Two miry streams,	5	
Humboldt or Mary's River ford,	9	——1424
Miry branch, ...	½	
Branch, ...	½	
Branch 100 ft. wide—3 ft. deep,	20	
(Some good grass in this distance.)		
Right hand road leaves the River,	28	
Small creek, ...	10	
Crossing of Small stream,	3	
Spring of good water,	12	
Road strikes the river (grass poor,)	15	
Branch, ...	13	
Road strikes the river (grass poor,)	12	
Alkaline Stream (grass poor,)	3	
Road strikes the river, ...	10	
Leaves it, ...	3	
Again touches the river,	6	
Miry branch (good road,)	18	
(You will find a better ford one mile above the ordinary one.)		
Road strikes the river, ...	2	
Road leaves the river, ...	25.	
(Some good grass in this distance.)		
Again touches the river (no wood water or grass,)	14	
Junction of the Lawson and Truckie routes,	5	
Camping place (by the latter route,)	35	

Slough of Humboldt River,	15 miles,	
"Sink" of do.	20	
(The best water is in a slough that passes through a bend and narrow b'luff.)		
From the Sink to Hot Springs (no grass or water.)	20	
Truckie River (no grass or water,)	25	
Ford (good camp,)	5	
Bend in the river (good camp,)	15	
Travel up the river, ...	8	
Cross a hill to the river,	12	
Pass creek Kanyon (good camps every few miles,)	42	
Through the Kanyon, ...	5	
Red Lake (good camp near,)	11	
Lake Valley (good camp,)	6	
Over the ridge to Rock Valley (good camp,)	10	
Sick Springs, ...	13	
Camp Creek (poor camp,)	10	
Pleasant valley. Gold mines,	28	
Sutters, ...	55	1957
(Lawson Route. The road on this route is better, grass and water better, and not much farther than the other.)		
From Humboldt to "Rabbit Wells"	30	
(No water, but good grass in many places.)		
Hot Springs (no water or grass,)	20	
Mud Lake (very little water nor grass,)	20	
Summit of a bluff, ...	2	
Small Lake, ...	3	
Through a Kanyon (good grass and water.)	20	
Summit of Sierra Nevada,	45	
(Several marshy valleys containing lakes in this distance.)		
Camp, ...	14	
Valley of Pitt Lake, ...	4	
Camp, ...	13	
Pitt River, ...	18	
Ford of Pitt, ...	10	
Second ford, ...	7	
Third, ...	25	
Last Ford (several fords in this distance,)	15	
Camp on the river.	16	
Do. Do. (road marshy,)	10	
Camp, ...	19	
Do.	18	
Spring, ...	4	

Small Lake and meadow,	22 miles,	
(Not much water in this distance,)		
Feather River ford and meadows,	31	
(Plenty of water.)		
Good Camp,	10	
"Little Valley" and Deer creek,	14	
Camp,	10	
Lawson's Rancho,	35	
(Very little water and bad road,)		
Potter's Rancho,	25	
Neal's,	8	
Hamilton City,	18	
Yeats' Rancho,	8	
Yuba City and Marysville,	12	
Sacramento City,	50	
San Francisco,	175	
By the Lawson Route to Sacramento city,		214

Distance from St. Louis to California via. New Mexico.

To Independence,	400	
Crossing of Big Arkansas,	350	
Bent's Fort,	225	
Sante Fe,	270	
Rio Del Norte at San Phillpi,	30	
Descending Right Bank (Rio Del Norte.)	210	
Copper mines,	75	
River Gila,	40	
Pimo Village,	500	
Mouth of Gila,	165	
Crossing Colorado,	10	
Do. Cornado,	100	
First Ranchero in California,	65	
San Diego,	45	
San Louis Rey,	46	
Pueblo de los Angelos,	100	
Santa Barbara,	100	
Montery,	310	
Rio Selina,	15	
Rio San Joaquin,	85	
Rio Tuwaleme.	12	
Rio Stanislaw,	10	
Sutter's Fort,	90	3318

From San Francisco to Panama,	3600	miles.
Across the Isthmus, ...	87	
To New Orleans, ...	1600	5287.
From New York to San Francisco via Cape Horn, ...		17000

THE END.

From San Francisco to Ogden, ... 1000 miles.
Ogden to Omaha, ... 1032 "
Omaha to New York, ... 1300 "
3332 "

From New York to San Francisco via
Omaha, ... [illegible]

CONTENTS.

PAGE.

Names & Residence, of each Member, &c. 3

CHAP. 1.—*A "Returned Californian"—"making a start for the Diggins." Big Blue—Little Blue, and Platte Valley.* 7

CHAP. 2.—*Fort Kearney—"Doby Houses"—Buffalo, Deer, &c.—Ford of South Platte—Encampment of Sioux—Fine Arts—Squaws.* 9

CHAP. 3.—*Indian Mode of Travelling—Court House or Church—Chimney Rock—Scott's Bluffs—Blacksmith Shop and Horse Creek.* 12

CHAP. 4.—*Fort Larimie—Warm Springs—La Bonte River—Magnesian Limestone—An early start—Fishing in Deer creek—Ferry of North Platte—Mineral Lakes.* 14

CHAP. 5.—*Same subject continued.—Fording rivers—Ice springs—Rain and hail storm.* 17

CHAP. 6.—*"South Pass"—Separation,—Green River—Ham's Ford.—A Supper.—Snow Road—Soda or Beer Springs—Steamboat Springs.* 20

CHAP. 7.—*Fort Hall—Port Neuf river—American Falls—Raft River—Fall River—Oregon Road—Goose Creek—Castle Rocks,—Salt Lake Valley.* 24

CHAP. 8.—*Rattle Snake River—Hot Springs—Humboldt river—Sink—Lawson Route—Rabbit Wells—Desert—Hot Springs—Mud Lake.* 27

CHAP. 9.—*Sierra Nevada—Pitt River—Indian Difficulties—an Oregon Company—Something to eat—Murder of the Canton mess.* 31

CHAP. 10.—*Getting Short again—A party of "Prospectors"—Feather River Meadows—Deer creek—Lawsons.* 35

CHAP. 11.—*Native Gold—where found—methods of obtaining it.* 37

CHAP. 12.—*Climate of California,—its Cause,—Soil,—Productions,—Animals, &c.* 39

CHAP. 13—*The "Diggers"—Habits—Religion, &c.,—Mexicans—a Fandango—Chief Towns.* 42

1851